

Yankees Had Harder Task to Win Flag in American League Than Giants Did in National

McGRAW'S TEAM AIDED BY PIRATES' COLLAPSE

On Other Hand, Hugmen Had to Travel at Much Faster Clip, as Indians Kept Up Their Determined Battle to Finish.

BY DENMAN THOMPSON.

NEW YORK, October 5.—They're off. Soon the first act of what should prove the most colorful drama every staged in the theater of people—a base ball park—will be history, and then only will something definite be known as to the probabilities of whether the banner emblematic of the world base ball championship for 1921 will decorate the Polo Grounds flagstaff while the Giants of the National League are playing host there or while the American League Yankees are "at home."

With the actual opening of hostilities in the classic struggle, the second outbreak of civil war in the history of the national pastime and the first ever to be waged on one battleground, those of the millions of fans unable to get into stadium capable of seating only 40,000 must direct their attention to the newspapers, scoreboards or ticker tape for returns from the front.

Followers of the grand old game, meaning practically every red-blooded, sport-loving American, have been given ample opportunity to learn in advance the winner of the fall classic. They have listened to a lot of chatter, read realms of dope, studied the averages, analyzed the percentages and compared the characteristics of the rival clubs of McGraw and Huggins, as well as considered the relative merits of the managers themselves.

Know All About 'Em.
Due to the zealous efforts of enterprising purveyors of publicity, the fans have been able to obtain detailed data on every angle of the lives, age, height and weight of the players which could possibly have any bearing on the outcome of the struggle at hand. Nothing has been overlooked. The bugs have speculated the political affiliations of the athletes, pondered over their religious beliefs, scrutinized their temperaments, surmised their habits, inquired into their bank balances and learned the color of their eyes. Having convinced himself of something or other on concluding these tests, probes and sifts, Mr. Fan now can allow for the human equation, determine the position of the constellations and then bet as much as two bits he is wrong and not go far astray.

The prospect that a precedent would be set in having a world series start with the chances of one team fancied no more than the other was upset by a last-minute influx of western money, which made the Giants favorites, but up until the eve of the inaugural game was a notable lack of volume in betting, most of the wagers actually recorded being of the freak variety and having to do with the number of home runs Ruth will make, how many times he will be walked and the length of the series.

Yanks Show to Advantage.
In closing the book on pre-series speculation one feature of the races run by the contending clubs generally overlooked and which merits consideration as being indicative, regardless of the outcome of the first game, concerns the relative showing made in the final half of the season. It will hearten supporters of the Yankees.

Granting that the American League is a somewhat stronger organization all around than the parent circuit—and this conclusion is inevitable from the fact that it has won 11 of the last 17 world series, starting with the 1890 and ending with the 1920, disregarding the framed set between the Reds and Black Sox—the Yankees earned their title against more powerful opposition than the Giants had to contend with.

In midseason the Hugmen were

three and one-half games behind the Indians, a powerful foe despite the accidents they suffered, and they eventually passed them and took the yearly set from the Tribe by a margin of 14 games to 8.

Aided by Pirates' Collapse.
Giving all due credit to the Giants for overcoming the latter stages of the campaign, a seven-and-one-half-game lead held by Pittsburgh, it is nevertheless a fact that the Pirates collapsed completely and the Cardinals were tardy in starting their drive toward the top. The Buccaneers not only crumpled before the Giants, but to the other teams as well, playing at only a .500 gait in the last half of the race, when they won 38 and losing only 28 in the first half.

Hugmen Hit Fast Pace.
Fifty-two games won and twenty-four lost was the record of the Yankees in the last half of the campaign and the Giants won forty-six and lost thirty in the same period, as against an only even break for the exploded Pirates. From the halfway mark to the close the Giants won one more and lost one less than the Indians, while the Yankees won six more and lost six less than the Giants over this stretch.

This means the Yanks maintained a faster pace against stronger opposition in the second half than the Giants, whose winning percentage of .544 was practically on a par with that of the Yankees' chief rival, while the American League champions stepped along at a .634 gait.

The Giants won their flag with a final percentage of .514, while the Yanks had to first win and then hold the lead over a team that was traveling at pretty nearly as rapid a pace as the Giants, while McGraw's manager merely had to stick ahead of the Pirates, who were stumbling along at only .500 speed in the second half.

PLAY FOR CUE MATCHES.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., October 5.—Bill Hard matches yesterday in national three-cushion tourney here resulted as follows: Tiff Denton, Kansas City, 50 to 42; Charles Otis, New York, 50 to 42; Hugh Neal, 50 to 46; Pierre Maupome, Mexico, defeated Charles Westcott, Pittsburgh, 50 to 20, and August Kleckhafer, Chicago, defeated Alfred De Oro, Havana, 50 to 23.

HEROES OF PAST SERIES

1903. Cy Young, Red Sox pitcher. He won three out of the five games from the Pirates.

1905. Billy Gilbert, Giant second baseman. Supposedly a weak hitter, he drove in a majority of his team's runs against the Athletics' pitchers.

1906. George Rube, substitute infielder, who played third base for the White Sox. He won two games from the Cubs with three-baggers.

1907. Miner Brown and Ed Reulbach, Cub pitchers.

1908. Brown, Reulbach and Orvie Over-all, Cub pitchers.

1909. Babe Adams, Pirate pitcher.

1910. Eddie Collins, Athletics' second baseman, and Jack Coombs, Athletics' pitcher.

1911. Frank Baker, Athletics' third baseman, whose home runs defeated the Giants.

1912. Tris Speaker, Red Sox center-fielder, by his batting, and Harry Hooper, Red Sox right-fielder, by his fielding, featured the victories over the Giants.

1913. Baker, by his hitting, and Chief Bender and Eddie Plank, Athletics' pitchers, defeated the Giants.

1914. Hank Gowdy, Braves' catcher,

battled his team to victory over the Athletics' Dick Rudolph, who was the star pitcher of the Braves.

1915. Duffy Lewis, Harry Hooper and Tris Speaker, the Red Sox outfield, defeated the Phillies by their batting and fielding.

1916. Larry Gardner, Red Sox third baseman, was chiefly instrumental in defeating the Dodgers by his batting.

1917. Eddie Cicotte and Urban Faber, White Sox pitchers, who won the games from the Giants by their twirling.

1918. George Whitteman, veteran of the minor leagues, who played left field for the Red Sox and was the chief factor in defeating the Cubs by his batting and fielding.

1919. Walter Rucker, Red pitcher, by his hitting and Eddie Roush, Red center-fielder, by his fielding, were the big factors in most of the defeats of the White Sox. Dickie Kerr, White Sox youngster, pitched his team to two of its three victories.

1920. Elmer Smith, Cleveland right-fielder, hit a home run with the bases full, the first time in world series history. Bill Wambagans, Cleveland second baseman, completed a triple play unassisted. Jim Bagby, Cleveland pitcher, hit a homer with two on. All happened in the fifth game, which Cleveland won from Brooklyn, 5 to 1.

President Harding Sorry He Cannot Attend Game
President Harding, in a letter today to B. B. Johnson, president of the American League, expressed his regret that public business precluded his attendance at the opening game of the world series. The President was formally invited to attend.

RUTH HIT ZERO AND .200 IN TWO FORMER TITLES

NEW YORK, October 5.—George Herman Ruth, chief circuit cloutier of the campaign and owner of a season's batting average of .378, entered the world series with a lowly hitting record for title games in which he has participated.

The famous Yankee outfielder was a Boston Red Sox pitcher in the games against Brooklyn, in 1916, and also an outfielder in the contests with the Cubs in 1918.

The first series he failed to get a single hit. Against the Cubs, his hitting mark was .200.

A wide difference that from his place in the batting sun this year. He batted through the American League race at a .378 rate this season, not to mention his home run rampaging.

LITTLE WORLD SERIES STARTS IN LOUISVILLE

LOUISVILLE, Ky., October 5.—The little world series between the Louisville club, 1921 champions of the American Association, and Baltimore, International League pennant winner, started here today.

Second only to the interest in the outcome of the series is the interest in the two star batsmen of the teams, Kirtke for Louisville and Bentley for Baltimore. This season broke the world record for the number of hits made during the season, when he cracked out 282, while Bentley hit over .400.

FOURTH FOR JENNINGS.

McGraw's Assistant Has Figured, With Tigers, in Three.

This is the fourth modern world series in which Huxley Jennings, assistant manager of the Giants, has been a figure. In 1907, 1908 and 1909, as manager of the Detroit Tigers, he piloted his team to championships of the American League, but in each instance the Tigers failed to defeat their National opponents.

In October of last year, after Jennings had resigned as manager of the Tigers, he was signed by John McGraw to be his assistant. McGraw has not relinquished the reins of leadership, but Jennings has taken his place on the coaching lines, and has acted in an advisory capacity. Jennings and McGraw were members of the famous old Baltimore Orioles when the former played shortstop and the latter covered third.

GIANTS BEAT YANKEES IN PREVIOUS CLASHES

Twice before the present series have the Giants and the Yankees met on the home diamond in the post-season city series of 1910 and 1914. In each case the National League club was the victor, the McGrawites winning the first clash four games to two, with an extra tie contest for good measure, and the second four games to one.

In 1910, 103,000 spectators paid \$1,452 to witness the play, while four years later close to 40,000 fans contributed \$30,563 for the privilege of watching the struggle.

CHICAGO FANS EXCITED.

CHICAGO, October 5.—Chicago fans turned out strongly for the first game of the series to decide the championship of the city between the clubs of the National and American leagues. Enthusiasm is at high pitch.

WHITAKER, D. C. PLAYER, IN TITLE CHESS EVENT

CLEVELAND, Ohio, October 5.—The annual tournament of the Western Chess Association starts here this afternoon. Twelve players will compete in the major event. Among those entered are: Laaker, title holder; Samuel Factor, B. A. Ckalkowski and H. Hahibohm of Chicago, W. L. Moorman of Lynchburg, Va.; J. T. Beckner, Winchester, Ky.; N. T. Whitaker, Washington; I. Spero of Youngstown, Ohio.

TEAM BATTING.

Winning Team. Losing Team.
1906—Chicago (N.) 197 Chicago (N.) 201
1907—Chicago (N.) 237 Detroit (A.) 208
1908—Chicago (N.) 236 Detroit (A.) 203
1909—Pitts. (N.) 231 Detroit (A.) 203
1910—Pitts. (A.) 317 Chicago (N.) 221
1911—Pitts. (A.) 317 New York (N.) 175
1912—Boston (A.) 220 New York (N.) 270
1913—Pitts. (A.) 234 New York (N.) 201
1914—Boston (A.) 244 Philadelphia (A.) 172
1915—Boston (A.) 264 Philadelphia (N.) 182
1916—Boston (A.) 239 Brooklyn (N.) 200
1917—Chicago (A.) 274 New York (N.) 236
1918—Boston (A.) 196 Chicago (N.) 210
1919—Cleveland (N.) 225 Chicago (A.) 224
1920—Cleveland (A.) 244 Brooklyn (N.) 203

TEAM FIELDING.

Winning Team. Losing Team.
1906—Chicago (N.) 949 Chicago (N.) 971
1907—Chicago (N.) 954 Detroit (A.) 955
1908—Chicago (N.) 977 Detroit (A.) 961
1909—Pitts. (N.) 947 Detroit (A.) 937
1910—Pitts. (A.) 947 Chicago (N.) 934
1911—Pitts. (A.) 956 New York (N.) 934
1912—Boston (A.) 958 New York (N.) 931
1913—Pitts. (A.) 975 New York (N.) 987
1914—Boston (N.) 979 Philadelphia (A.) 963
1915—Boston (A.) 978 Philadelphia (N.) 984
1916—Boston (A.) 978 Brooklyn (N.) 942
1917—Chicago (A.) 982 New York (N.) 963
1918—Boston (A.) 998 Chicago (N.) 978
1919—Cleveland (N.) 963 Chicago (A.) 963
1920—Cleveland (A.) 967 Brooklyn (N.) 979

There's Class to the Boys When a World Series Is On. —BY BUD FISHER



ATHLETICS ONLY CLUB TO HIT .300 IN CLASSIC

In a majority of instances in the past pitching has been the predominating factor in deciding world series. A glance at the team batting averages attests this fact. Only once since 1905 has a team batted better than .300. That was in the series of 1910, between the Athletics and the Cubs. Connie Mack's troop then whanged the ball for an average of .317, ninety-six points better than Chicago. The nearest approach to that mark was made in 1908, when the Cubs, playing against the Detroit Tigers, hit for a grand average of .283.

The greatest fielding achievement of a team was in 1918, when the Red Sox and the Cubs clashed. The Sox were outbatted in that series, 219 to 186, but they won chiefly because of their remarkable fielding. As a team they made but one error, having a fielding average of .996.

The following table shows the team batting and team fielding averages in the world series since 1905:

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INDIAN, WITH CANAL ZONE TROOPS, IS STAR RUNNER

Homer Baker, former international half-mile champion, who is government athletic director in the Canal Zone, declares that he has found a marathon runner who may be developed for the next United States Olympic team.

The discovery is White Feather, full-blooded Indian from the same tribe as the great Tom Longboat. White Feather is with the United States Army troops in the Canal Zone. He trains Baker said, three times a week over the roads from Colon to Gatun.

Chaney Shades Williams.

BOSTON, October 5.—Andy Chaney was awarded the decision over Kid Williams in a ten-round bout here last night. They are Baltimore featherweights.

WILDE AND BUFF WILL BOX FOR WORLD TITLE

NEW YORK, October 5.—Tex Rickard is going to bring Jimmy Wilde over here from England and stack him against Johnny Buff, the American flyweight champion, in a battle for the championship of the world. Johnny Buff has signed an agreement and Wilde's manager has cabled that he is willing to sign. The idea is that the fight will be held some time before Christmas.

No one who knows anything about either of these two little chaps will doubt that the fight would be a real fight all the way and that it would draw a throng which would fill the garden from the ringside to the rafters.

Amongst the other celebrities at the series is Bill Lange, uncle of George Kelly of the Giants. Bill used to be known as the most sensational outfielder in base ball because he misjudged all the fly balls and finally had to grab them with one hand.

He asked me who I liked in the series and of course, I knew he was

RING LARDNER

SEZ:

Base Ball Lacks Mystery of Foot Ball or Fight, Because It Has No Secret Practice. Opinion of Series Unprintable.

NEW YORK, October 5.—Well, the big series is on, and by this time everybody has formed some opinion in regards to same, but mine ain't printable. However, Judge Landis is amongst us, and has made the positive statement that he don't care which nine wins, but hopes that it will win on its merits.

President Harding himself couldn't put the matter more clear, and yet they keep the judge on the bench.

The judge don't need to worry about this series being decided on its merits, as information has reached the writer that they was a big meeting of the New York gamblers the other night to decide which team to bribe, but they come to the conclusion that it wasn't necessary in either case.

A big base ball game is a sporting event that gives most people all the thrill they are looking for, but with all due respects to the national pastime, it seems to me like it lacks the mystery that makes a big fight or a big foot ball match so exciting. For one thing, base ball is not a secret practice, which is one of the main things that rouses interest in a foot ball game or a fight.

Like for inst., you take foot ball and for two or three weeks before the Yale-Harvard game the sons of Eli and George is shut up behind locked gates and they's nobody allowed to see what they are doing and you don't never find out till the game is on, and then you don't know for sure, though you kind of suspect that they was manipulating themselves all that time.

Or you take a fight like the late battle of the century. Carpenter was kept under cover and the newspaper men and they's nobody allowed to see what they are doing and you don't never find out till the game is on, and then you don't know for sure, though you kind of suspect that they was manipulating themselves all that time.

But base ball is open and above the boards. The two rival clubs knows all about each other. Generally always they have seen each other play in games so important that they was no chance to conceal their full strength. The Yankees know that Neft does most of his best pitching with his left hand, and the Giants know that Ruth's weakness is a ball thrown towards second base. So, as I say, while the game offer plenty of rivalry between the two teams, still they's no mystery about neither one of them unless it's how did they win the pennant.

So while I am at the Polo Grounds with the expectations of staying awake all p.m., I would have had a better time if either of the two managers had sprung a big surprise, like McGraw leaving his ball players in the clubhouse and showing up on the field with a herd of zebras, or Huggins insisting on the members of both nines wearing skirts to their knees. But I had to be satisfied with the usual ceremonies that goes with a games like this kind.

Amongst the other celebrities at the series is Bill Lange, uncle of George Kelly of the Giants. Bill used to be known as the most sensational outfielder in base ball because he misjudged all the fly balls and finally had to grab them with one hand.

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STAKE TO HELEN DILLON.
LEXINGTON, Ky., October 5.—Helen Dillon, A. B. Cox's two-year-old bay filly, proved the best in the Futurity, the \$7,000 feature of the opening day's card at the grand circuit races. She won the last two heats of the event after she had finished third behind Savvity and Edith Worthy in the first.

Buy's Pair From Yanks.

The Toronto Internationals have purchased from the New York Americans Shortstop John Jones and Outfielder Frank Kane, who the past season played with Jersey City.

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